

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. An implant device for an osteochondral defect comprising:
  - a first plate made of a resorbable biocompatible material;
  - a second plate made of said resorbable biocompatible material; and
  - a load transfer structure made of said resorbable biocompatible materialand situated between said first plate and said second plate.
2. The implant device of claim 1, wherein said resorbable biocompatible material is a polymer.
3. The implant device of claim 2, wherein said polymer comprises polyester.
4. The implant device of claim 1, wherein said second plate is porous.
5. The implant device of claim 1, wherein said first plate, said second plate and said load transfer structure comprise a unitary structure.
6. The implant device of claim 1, wherein said load transfer structure is integral with said first plate, and receivable by said second plate.

7. The implant device of claim 1, further comprising a fixation device extending from said second plate.
8. An implant device for an osteochondral defect comprising:
- an upper plate made of a resorbable biocompatible polymer;
  - a lower plate made of the resorbable biocompatible polymer and having a plurality of exposure bores; and
  - a load transfer structure situated between said upper plate and said lower plate.
9. The implant device of claim 8, further comprising a fixation member axially extending from a bottom surface of said lower plate.
10. The implant device of claim 9, wherein said fixation member comprises a stem having a plurality of radially extending barbs.
11. The implant device of claim 8, wherein said implant device is adapted to receive a resorbable cartilage scaffold between said upper plate and said lower plate.
12. The implant device of claim 8, wherein said polymer comprises polyester.
13. The implant device of claim 8, wherein said upper plate is porous.

14. The implant device of claim 8, wherein said upper plate, said lower plate and said load transfer structure comprise a unitary structure.

15. The implant device of claim 8, wherein said load transfer structure is integral with said upper plate and receivable by said lower plate.

16. The implant device of claim 15, wherein said load transfer structure includes an attachment structure configured to be press fit into receiving bores in said lower plate.

17. The implant device of claim 16, wherein said load transfer structure comprises a plurality of individual supports, and said attachment structure comprises an attachment component associated with each individual support.

18. An implant for load bearing bone articulation surfaces comprising:

an upper plate made of a bio-resorbable polymer and having an upper center bore;

a lower plate made of the bio-resorbable polymer and having a lower center bore surrounded by a plurality of exposure bores; and

a plurality of load transfer supports situated between a lower surface of said upper plate and an upper surface of said lower plate, said load transfer supports surrounding said upper and lower center bores.

19. The implant of claim 18, wherein a scaffold retention area is defined about said load transfer supports.

20. The implant of claim 18, further comprising:

a fixation member axially extending from a lower surface of said lower plate.

21. The implant of claim 20, wherein said fixation member comprises:

a tube having a center bore that is coaxial with said upper and lower center bores; and

a plurality of retention flanges extending radially from an outside surface of said tube.

22. The implant of claim 18, wherein said upper plate, said lower plate and said load transfer structure comprise a unitary structure.

23. The implant of claim 18, wherein said load transfer structure is integral with said upper plate and receivable by said lower plate.

24. The implant of claim 23, wherein said load transfer structure includes an attachment structure configured to be press fit into receiving bores in said lower plate.

25. The implant of claim 24, wherein said load transfer structure comprises a plurality of individual supports, and said attachment structure comprises an attachment component associated with each individual support.